Time	Rates prior to 15.2.97	Revised Rates
0.6.00—07.00	1/2	1/3 (higher concession)
20.30—21.00	1/2	1/3 (higher concession)
21.00—23.00	1/4	1/3 (reduced concession)

(b) the changes have been made to reduce the heavy traffic congestion from 21.00 Hrs. onwards.

(c) At Present there is no such proposal under consideration.

मढ़ी, रोहतांग और खोकेसर में डूरसंचार सुविधा

22. श्री महेश्वर सिंह: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि प्रतिवर्ष लाखों पर्यटक रोहतांग दर्रे की यात्रा करते हैं किन्तु वहां पर संचार सुविधाएं उपलब्ध न होने के कारण उन्हें घोर असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार मढ़ी, रोहतांग और खोकेसर को उपग्रहीय (सैटेलाइट) सुविधा उपलब्ध कराएगी;

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब तक; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, हां।

(ग) 1998-99 के दौरान खोकेसर में एन॰ सी॰ पी॰ सी॰ सहित एक्सचेंज का प्रस्ताव है, बशर्ते उपस्कर उपलब्ध हों। वर्ष 1998 के पर्यटक सीजन जब अधिक संख्या में पर्यटक आते हैं, के दौरान मढ़ी और रोहतांग में वी॰ सैट (बहुत छोटा सैटेलाइट) संस्थापित करने की व्यवहार्यता की पुनरीक्षा की जाएगी।

(घ) उपर्युक्त (ग) के उत्तर को देखते हुए लागू नहीं होता।

Death of N.C.C. Cadets in Yamuna Barrage near Dehradun

23. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:
SHRI K. R. MALKANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eleven NCC Cadets drowned and several others injured in Yamuna Barrage near Vikasnagar, Dehradun recently and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the inquiry into the incident has since been completed and if so, the details of findings thereof;

(c) the details of compensation paid to kith and kin of the victims; and

(d) the action taken against those found guilty for the incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) The Delhi Directorate of National Cadet Corps (NCC) had organised an annual training camp at Vikas Nagar (near Dak Pathar) Dehradun, UP, from 28th May to 8th June, 1997 in which 789 NCC Cadets from Delhi were participating. On 6th June, 1997, at about 11000 hours, 80 Cadets entered the main channel of the Yamuna river for bathing. At the time of their entry, the water level was very low.

After about half an hour, these Cadets were swept away by a strong current which was caused due to release of water by opening of the three gates of Dak Pathar Barrage. The NCC Officers, staff, other Cadets and the local villagers tried to rescue these Cadets from drowning. Though 69 Cadets could be rescued, 11

Cadets lost their lives in the tragedy.

An enquiry into the incident is in progress. Action will be taken against those found guilty. Ex-gratia compensation @ Rs. 50,000/- has already been paid by NCC to the next of kin of the deceased Cadets. The balance @ Rs. 50,000/- will be paid in due course.

Losses to Ordnance factories due to earthquake in Jabalpur

24. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ordnance factories suffered losses due to earthquake in Jabalpur on 22nd May, 1997, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether export schedule has been hit and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) There are four Ordnance Factories located in Jabalpur. Two of these factories and their estates namely Ordnance Factory, Khamaria and Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur suffered damages which would cost about Rs. 94 crores to rectify. About one hundred (100) persons of Ordnance Factory, Khamaria were injured in the earthquake, 7 (seven) of these were injured seriously. In the two other Ordnance factories at Jabalpur viz. Vehicle Factory and Grey Iron Foundry, the effect of earthquake was minor.

Delivery of ammunition in one export contract is likely to be delayed. A revised delivery schedule has been proposed to the buyer and his approval is being sought in view of force majure.

Procurement of electrostatic liquid cleaner machines by IAF

25. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF procured 27 electrostatic liquid cleaner machines at a cost of Rs. 77.23 lakhs which were found unsuitable for use; and

(b) if so, who is responsible for this waste and whether any action has been taken against the persons concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) The IAF procured the said machines for cleaning hydraulic oil of aircraft system. However, a study carried out by technical experts, advised that these machines may not be useful for aircraft hydraulic oil. But these were found equally useful in radar units/ BRDs/AMSE where the oil requires periodic cleaning and dehumidification. Hence these machines are being gainfully utilised.

Release of book written by Maj. Gen. Arjun Ray

26. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Major-General Arjun Ray has just published the book 'Kashmir Diary';

(b) whether the book was okayed by Government;

(c) whether the author's meet with the foreign press was stopped only minutes before it was due;

(d) whether this last action was prompted by the fact that this book by a serving officer makes controversial and political statements; and

(e) if so, why the book was okayed and officially released in the first place?